THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There have been some reports of theft of computers in Kendriya Vidyalayas in Delhi and other parts of the country. Police is investigating in these cases and the outcome of Police investigations is awaited.

Directorate of Distance Education in Universities

† 986. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to establish distance education directorates in all the universities;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (b) The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has been charged with the responsibility of promotion, coordination and maintenance of standard in open and distance education system in the country. For this purpose, under the IGNOU Act, 1985, a Distance Education Council (DEC) has been set up as statutory authority. DEC has requested all the Universities to establish a Directorate to encourage distance education. Since setting-up of such Directorates require the Universities to pass a Resolution with the approval of statutory and other authorities, no definite time-frame can be indicated. However, efforts are being made to promote and encourage Open and Distance Learning System in the country.

(c) Does not arise.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.